Decline in tea prices at auction centres in South India

6293. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the tea prices at the aucion centers in South India during January, February and March, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to redress the grievances of the tea-planters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As result of higher production of tea in 1993 coupled with lower export, demand in overseas countries, prices of tea at various auction centres in India have been showing a declining trend.

(c) Decline in prices is a temporary phenomenon and with revival in exports demand the prices are expected to pick up. Efforts are being made to step up export of tea to traditional markets as well as develop new markets.

Ban on Export of Meat

6294. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been requested to ban the export of meat;

(b) if so, details thereof with background for such request;

(c) whether Government have also been requested to cancel all the licences granted for export of meat;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action on these requests; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (f) There have been some representations for banning slaughter of animals and export of meat.

Government policy permits slaughter of animals and export of meat subject to certain terms and conditions. Export of beef is, however, banned. There is no proposal to change the existing policy.

Training Institutions for Import/Export Trade

6295. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Government Institutions provide comple'e training and knowledge to people interested to enter into import and export trade;

(b) if so, names of such Institutions, State and Territory wise with formalities and charges fixed for such training;

(e) whether Government have provided some benefits to import and export units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, an autonomous body under Ministry of Commerce, organises various Foundational Programmes providing training on specific aspects of Export—Import policies and procedures and Executive Development Programmes on their own or on sponsorship basis. A list of such programmes for 1994-95 giving charges is given in the Statement (*See* below.)

(c) and (d) While there are no benefits directly provided to import and export units in the matter of providing training, the Government provides budgetary sup-